



**Minutes of the Athy Municipal District Meeting
held at 10.00 am on Monday, 16 December 2024
in the Council Chamber**

Members Present: Councillor A Breslin (Cathaoirleach) Councillors V Behan, B Dooley, M Leigh and I Keatley.

Officials Present: Mr A Dunney (District Manager), Mr K Dunne (District Engineer), Mr D Conlan (Senior Executive Engineer), Mr K Kavanagh (Senior Executive Officer), Ms E Price (Administrative Officer), Mr B McGrath (Meetings Administrator), Ms A Noone (Meetings Secretary) and others.

The Cathaoirleach welcomed everyone to the December meeting of the Athy Municipal District.

AY01/1224

Declaration of Conflicts or Pecuniary Interests

Declarations of (a) conflicts of interest or (b) pecuniary or beneficial interests under section 177 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended.

There were no declarations made.

AY02/1224

Minutes and Progress Report

The members considered the minutes the Athy Municipal District meeting held on Monday, 21 October 2024 and the progress report was noted.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley seconded by Councillor Leigh and agreed by all members that the minutes of the Athy Municipal District meeting held on 18 November 2024 be adopted and the progress report be noted.

AY03/1224

Municipal District Roadworks Update

The members received an update on the municipal district road works.

National Transport Authority (NTA) – Active Travel Measure Updates

No update since the last Athy Municipal District meeting. Project Team dealing with this.

Department of Transport – Climate Adaption Projects

No projects completed in Athy Municipal District (MD).

Municipal District Restoration Improvement Works – RI Program

R418 – Fontstown to Rathsallagh – completed.

R418 – Kilkea Village – completed.

L8079 – R418 to Bolgers Cross – completed.

L8079 – Bolgers Cross to Burtown Cross – completed.

L8080 – Grangenolvin – completed.

L8076 – Rosetown Snugburrow – completed.

L8040 – Back Moone – completed.

L8045 – Commonstown Killelan – completed.

L8031 – Milltown – completed.

L8094 – Coltstown Knockfield – completed.

Municipal District Restoration Maintenance Works – RM Program

R448 – Moyle Abbey to Inchaquire – completed.

R417 – Levittstown to Maganey – completed.

L8008 – Calverstown to Narraghmore – completed.

L8069 – Geraldine Clogorow – completed.

L4007 – Geraldine Road towards Skerries North – completed.



L4008 – Gallowshill – completed.

L8044 – Moone to Killelan – completed.

L8042 – Bolgers Cross to Belan – completed.

L8062 – Goulyduff – completed.

L4006 – Woodstock North Kilcrow – completed.

L4006 – Goulyduff to County Boundary – completed.

L8031 – Milltown Cardington – completed.

Ballyhade Area – completed.

Grading edges of all Restoration Maintenance roads listed – completed.

Local Improvement Schemes

Grangecoor – completed.

Golf Amenity Area – completed.

Community Involvement Schemes

No update for 2024.

Footpath Upgrades / Surveys

Convent Lane – completed.

Ballyroe – completed.

Kilmead Newline Road – completed.

Kilmead Newline Grove – completed.

Ballitore Main Road and junction – surveying and design works.

Barnhill – Report received and under review.

Surveys are underway in a number of estates.

Prussellstown – completed.

Janeville – completed.

Installing pedestrian crossing points in Mansfield Grove – completed.

Castleroe West: Footpaths – completed.

Abbylands Castledermot – completed.

Crookstown – completed.



Cardington – Under construction.

Skenagun – Under construction.

Narraghmore – Under construction.

Signage Works

Continuing our update of signage in the Athy Municipal District

Upgrading signage on completed resurfaced roads – Ongoing

Signage works R-417 for Tankardstown – completed.

Signage Works R415 Cuckles Corner – completed.

Walterstown Junction all signs renewed.

Kilkea signage on approach to bridge – completed.

Installed signs at junction in Burrows, Calverstown – completed.

Completed renewing of signage to Corballis Crossroad.

Installed new stop sign in Towns Park, Athy – completed.

Commence signage renewal to Barrowhouse Road bend – completed.

Repairs carried out to signage on the Tullow Road – completed.

Geraldine Cross – completed.

Fontstown Crossroads – completed.

Skenagun: Approach signs – Under construction.

Road Markings

Upgrading road junction markings.

Upgraded road marking in Calverstown Village – completed.

Rheban Manor – completed.

Kildangan Cross – completed.

Corballis Cross – completed.

Barrowhouse Road – completed.

Convent View – completed.

All Restoration Maintenance roads are now completed.

School Zones completed in Castledermot.

School Zone Kilkea – completed.



Moone – Tender awarded.

Skenagun –Tender awarded.

Ardcoil low-cost scheme – completed.

Maganey Junction – completed.

Drainage Works

Several villages have had drainage systems cleaned.

Jetting drainage lines on various roads – ongoing.

Cleaning gullies – ongoing.

Carrying out water cuts along roads – ongoing.

Completed drainage works at Mullaghreelan.

Completed drainage works at Kilgowan / Usk.

Drainage works completed at Mullamast.

Completed drainage works along L4009 Castleroe.

Installed non-return valve at Abbeylands.

Completed drainage works to Sweep Lane, Nurney.

Completed drainage works to all restoration improvement roads.

Boherbaun culvert works – Tender awarded.

Road Patching

Carrying out patching along various sections. – ongoing.

Nurney R415 centre line repairs.

N78 – Athy.

Maganey – completed

Street Sweeping

Street sweeping to areas – ongoing.

Bin collection – ongoing.

Completed installation of ten new bins along Leinster Street and Duke Street,

Athy.



Community Works

Meeting with Nollen Keatley re “Welcome to Castledermot” signs.

General Maintenance

Hedge cutting along Regional Roads.

Hedge Cutting for the Restoration Improvement works – completed.

Hedge cutting for the Restoration Maintenance works – completed.

Hedge cutting at junctions.

The members each thanked the Municipal District Office for their work in 2024.

The report was noted.

AY04/1224

Repair Wall at the exchange in Castledermot

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.

That the council repairs the wall at the exchange in Castledermot.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that it is conditioned that the works will be completed on planning file 21461.

Councillor Behan questioned if that planning application had been refused. She advised that Castledermot was included in the Irish Walled Towns which was a prestigious group to be a part of and had brought this motion as she wanted to prevent any anti-social behaviour in the area and asked that the area be cordoned off.

Councillor Dooley advised that there were other works in Castledermot that were coming together well but there were further works required. He asked if there was a funding requirement and to advise the members of same prior to budget discussions.



The District Engineer advised that he would check the planning file and come back to Councillor Behan.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted.

AY05/1224

Footpaths in Older Estates

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.

That the council prioritises the upgrading of footpaths in four older estates in Athy Town - Kingsgrove, Forest Park, Páirc Bhride and St Dominic's Terrace to be included as early as possible on the schedule of works for 2025.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Leigh.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that these works are included in our schedule of works but the Municipal District Office cannot commit on completion in 2025 due to the unknown budget and other competing housing estates within the Athy Municipal District area.

Councillor Dooley advised that he was happy with the report and that there were many older estates in the Municipal District that needed attention. The footpaths in older estates had previously been surfaced with bitumen which was used at the time but it was not up to 2024 standards and now needed to be redone. Could the members sit down with the Municipal District Engineer in the New Year to discuss the list of estates that needed attention.

The members raised the following:

- Welcomed the report and hoped to see movement on upgrades of footpaths in older estates in the New Year.



- Design principles had changed over the years and the older estates needed to be brought up to 2024 standards.

The District Engineer agreed to meet with the members in January 2025.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Leigh that the report be noted.

AY06/1224

Review of R147 Southern Distributor Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Behan.

That the council reviews the R147 Southern Distributor Road (SDR) to facilitate hauliers and agricultural vehicles who have difficulties with the placement of the stop bars on the Fortbarrington and Carlow Road junctions on all sides and navigating the roundabout on the Ballylynan side.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Athy Municipal District will investigate this matter and consider in the context of the soon to be implemented HGV restrictions in the town.

Councillor Behan thanked the team for the report and added that the members had each discussed the issue and had many complaints that hauliers, agricultural machinery users etc had struggled to turn right on the Carlow/Athy Road at that junction. They did not want to cause damage to their vehicle. She advised that the SDR was a separate entity to the functions of the town and required different functions and questioned the timeline. There was an issue with pedestrians safety and lorries in the town. This job wouldn't require as much as new kerbing and asked that it be considered.



Councillor Dooley advised that he had met with hauliers in the town a couple of weeks ago.. He had discussed moving the stop bars with the District Engineer. He also wanted to compliment the Municipal District office for the great communication on the recent road closure in Athy town(Leinster Street works) and the quick turnaround of the works. Continuing good communication with all stakeholders was essential

Mr D Conlan advised that the changes could be made but emphasised that any change made needed to tie in with the overall plans, he was hopeful that work would begin in January.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Behan and seconded by Councillor Dooley that the reports be noted.

AY07/1224

Yellow box on Junction at SDR and Carlow Road

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council installs a yellow box outside the houses at the junction of the Southern Distributor Road (SDR) and Carlow Road.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Behan.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that it is not within the remit of Kildare County Council to provide yellow boxes to private houses.

Councillor Leigh was disappointed with the report and advised that there was a resident that could not get out of their property due to traffic outside their home. Could the council review this issue again. Was it national policy or Kildare County Councils policy to not install yellow boxes outside private homes?



Mr D Conlan advised that he had visited the area and couldn't see any issue with the traffic but would review the situation again. He would also check the policy and come back to Councillor Leigh regarding the issue.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Behan that the report be noted.

AY08/1224

Public Lighting on Link Road on SDR

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin.

That the council installs public lighting on the link road (from the traffic lights) on the Southern Distributor Road (SDR) to the roadway that leads to the Blueway.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Dooley.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Public Lighting Section of Kildare County Council has requested a quotation from the Public Lighting Maintenance Contractor. The lights will be provided depending on the Kildare Lighting Infrastructure Priority Scheme (KLIPS) ranking and availability of funds.

Councillor Breslin was happy with the report and looked forward to receiving costings. She advised that the area was particularly dark and lights were needed, especially for safety reasons.

Councillor Dooley agreed and added that he had previously raised this issue and was surprised to see the cost report on KLIPs. He asked that a meeting be arranged with Mr M McLoughlin. He asked that the council could speak to Etex as they owned the land and could ask them to install some lighting. This would add extra security to the area.

The members raised the following:



- Did this fall within the ranking for KLIPs due to it being a pedestrian area.
- Was there any funding left from the Blueway that could be re-assigned to this project.
- The infrastructure needed to be in place for the Blueway and the ranking/priority hadn't taken that into consideration.

Mr D Conlan advised that engagement with Etex would be required as they own that area of land. The intention was that this would form part of the Blueway.

The District Manager advised that the report stated that the lights would be provided subject to availability of funds. It had been ranked on the KLIPs list but LPT funding would be required. He was surprised at the KLIPs report and agreed that the members needed to sit down and consider funding. If the members wanted the work to be carried out then funding was required.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Dooley that the report be noted.

AY09/1224

Pedestrian Crossing on the Main Street, Castledermot

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Breslin.

That Kildare County Council installs a pedestrian crossing on the Main Street, Castledermot.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members the area in the vicinity of Colaiste Lorcaín shall be assessed by technical staff to determine what type of pedestrian crossing is appropriate. The delivery of any facility will be dependent on a future funding source being identified.



Councillor Breslin thanked Mr D Hodgins for the positive report and advised that this area was heavily pedestrianised and needed to be looked at.

Councillor Keatley supported the motion and thought that funding had previously been set aside, could this be checked.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Breslin and seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted.

AY10/1224

Upgrade works for Kilmead

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Leigh.
That the council progresses the agreed upgrade works for Kilmead.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that these works will be carried out in 2025 subject to funding and resources.

Councillor Leigh advised that he had been approached by the school board on this matter. The area looked worn out and needed upgrade works, the roadway was bumpy and the surface needed to be looked at.

Councillor Keatley advised that money had previously been set aside along with two other villages. He thought that this money had been allocated to Public Realm.

Councillor Breslin added that if there was funding set aside they needed to establish how much and if more was required.

Mr K Dunne agreed to follow up with Ms P Pender and the Public Realm team.



Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Leigh and seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted.

AY11/1224

Athy Southern Distributor Road Snag List

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council confirm if the Athy Southern Distributor Road (SDR) is now under the complete control of the council with all snags complete?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that there are a number of outstanding elements of work to be completed on the scheme as well as a number of snag items still to be addressed. Kildare County Council is continuing to work with the contractor to close out all these items as soon as possible. The Athy Distributor Road was handed over to Kildare County Council in October 2023 and following the redesignation of the road as the N78 in March 2024 the responsibility for the upkeep of the road now sits with Transport Infrastructure Ireland.

Councillor Dooley asked if there were any queries regarding outstanding snag list did they contact Kildare County Council or Transport Infrastructure Ireland?

Mr D Conlan advised that there was a retention held and that all outstanding snag list items would have to be closed out before the retention was released.

Councillor Keatley asked for clarification that Kildare County Council own the road but Transport Infrastructure Ireland maintain it?

Mr D Conlan confirmed that the Council own the road but it was a national road so Transport Infrastructure Ireland maintained it.



Councillor Dooley thanked Mr D Conlan for previously meeting with residents and completing outstanding snags and advised that the road had many positive benefits for the town.

The report was noted.

AY12/1224

Nine Eye Bridge in Kilkea

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.

Can the council outline its plans for the Nine Eye Bridge in Kilkea (L8084)?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members the repair of the bridge known as Nine Eye Bridge has required Site investigation work to determine the make-up of a complex multi span bridge structure under the Millbrook Road. This investigation work is now complete and the design for the repair has been prepared. A contractor will have to be appointed to complete the repairs on behalf of Kildare County Council. The timeline for the repairs will be dependent on contractor availability.

Councillor Behan asked was there an exact timeline for the repairs. This bridge was a key artery for people accessing Kilkea primary school.

Mr D Conlan advised that as the report stated the timeline would be dependent on contractor availability but was hopeful to have it started early 2025. He would advise the members of any updates.

Councillor Behan asked that this item remain on the progress report.

The report was noted.



AY13/1224

Pedestrian Facilities in Ballyroe

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Behan.

Can the council confirm if it plans to upgrade pedestrian facilities in Ballyroe

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the Municipal District Office plan to upgrade pedestrian facilities in 2025 subject to funding and resources.

Councillor Behan advised that speeding was an issue here and better pedestrian facilities would help alleviate the speeding issues.

The District Engineer advised that it was their intention to carry out works in 2025 subject to funding.

The report was noted

AY14/1224

L8014 Road Maintenance

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.

Can the council confirm if the L8014 is on the road maintenance list for 2025?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that the L8014 is on the 2025/2027 schedule of works programme subject to funding and resources.

Councillor Leigh advised that he had been pushing this work for a long time, the road surface was bad and a solution needed to be worked out. Could the District Engineer meet with residents.

The District Engineer advised that he had started the process.



The report was noted.

AY15/1224

Bicycle Rack in the People's Park Athy

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Breslin.

Can the council confirm if it plans to provide a bicycle rack in the People's Park Athy?

A report was received from the Transport, Mobility and Open Spaces Department informing the members that arrangements will be made to install a bicycle rack in The Peoples Park as part of the 2025 Parks Works Programme.

The report was noted.

AY16/1224

Windows and Doors replacement

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Leigh.

Can the council inform members on how many council owned houses were fitted with new windows and doors in the Athy Municipal District to Q1, 2024?

A report was received informing the members that the Housing Maintenance Department replaces windows and doors under the following categories:

1. Response Maintenance:

1a. Replacements are made when repair or servicing is not possible, or the item is beyond repair.

1b. If multiple windows and doors at a property need attention, they are added to a list for potential replacement under the Windows and Door Replacement Programme, subject to available funding. In the absence of full replacement funding, works are prioritised based on need.

2. Planned Maintenance Works:



2a. Identified during pre-letting repair works or when bringing vacant housing stock back into use.

2b. Identified during surveys of properties purchased under the Local Authority acquisition programme.

Number of Council Owned Properties with Replacements in 2024:

Category	No. of Properties
1a. Response Maintenance	24
1b. Windows & Door Programme	12
2a. PLRs	2
2b. NHPs	10

In total, approximately 63 doors and 189 windows have been replaced under the above categories in 2024.

Councillor Leigh advised that a lot of people were waiting a long time on repairs for windows and doors and that some had got measurements taken two or three years ago and never heard anything since then.

Councillor Breslin asked if there was a date as to when works on these homes would start.

Ms E Price advised that she would raise the members points to the Housing Maintenance team.

The report was noted.

AY17/1224

Paint Amnesty in Athy MD

The members considered the following motion in the name of Councillor Dooley.

That the council introduces a paint amnesty for the Athy Municipal District, similar to the one promoted and run by the council in Naas which was hugely successful.



The motion was proposed by Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Keatley.

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that Funding was received under the Anti-Dumping Initiative (ADI) Scheme administered by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC) for the very successful paint amnesty run by Kildare County Council this year. Naas was the chosen location for the project, owing to its central situation in the county and the availability of a large suitable space at Áras Chill Dara. Assuming DECC runs the scheme again in 2025, Kildare County Council will submit a number of projects for consideration. If funding and suitable facilities are available, Athy can be considered as a location for a similar project in 2025.

The Planning, Enterprise and Economic Development Department, is also developing a pilot scheme in Athy for recycling water-based paints from the public, whereby they will be converted into useable stock and put back into the local economy. The scheme will be a circular economy enterprise.

Councillor Dooley thanked the Environment department for the response and noted that it was very costly to dispose of these items. He asked that the members push this themselves to get it up and running. He also advised that the establishment of the regeneration hub would be beneficial to the Municipal District and circular economy. These paints can go back into the economy safely. Hazardous paints needed to be disposed of correctly.

Mr K Kavanagh advised that it was a great initiative but was not cheap and cost around €37,000 to run. He agreed that it would be hugely beneficial to hold one in Athy but it would require sourcing funding. It would also require a suitable location and good traffic management plan in place.

Resolved on the proposal of Councillor Dooley and seconded by Councillor Keatley that the report be noted.



AY18/1224

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

The members considered the following question in the name of Councillor Dooley.
Can the council give an outline as to when the Athy Flood Relief Scheme surveys will be complete?

A report was received from the Environment Department informing the members that In February of this year, Murphys Geospatial Ltd (MGL) was appointed by Kildare County Council (KCC) to undertake the level surveys of the embankments, river channels, structures (bridges, culverts, weirs etc.) and the building floor levels within the scheme area. These surveys are now completed and this data forms the basis of the Hydraulic Model, which is currently being developed.

A preliminary ecological walkover survey was undertaken by RPS ecologists between the 29 April and 01 May 2024. The purpose of this walkover survey was to assess the potential for the survey site to support protected species (e.g. bats, otter, badger, etc.) and habitats (i.e. Annex I habitats) and to identify which detailed ecological surveys would need to be undertaken. These surveys, e.g. badger, otter, bat, aquatic species have been identified and will be scheduled over the coming year. Many of these surveys have seasonal constraints, e.g. while bat roosts may be initially identified in spring, they should be confirmed in winter.

A preliminary Ground Investigation survey contract has been tendered and the responses are being assessed. These surveys will take place in Q1 of 2025 and will be supervised by an archaeologist. A key element of the tender is that the successful contractor must demonstrate that they can manage the environmental constraints of working in the vicinity of the River Barrow.

All of these surveys will inform the optioneering process, which will identify a preferred option which will provide the required level of flood protection for the homes and business in Athy currently at risk from flooding. The identification of a preferred option and the statutory environmental assessment (including all required environmental surveys) are on schedule to be delivered by Q3 2026. Once completed, the preferred option will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála for planning consent.



Subject to a successful planning submission, the scheme is scheduled to begin construction in early 2028, with scheme completion scheduled for early 2030.

Councillor Dooley thanked Ms E O'Brien for the comprehensive report and advised that he would like to see a briefing on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme in early 2025.

The members raised the following:

- There were issues with flooding in other areas of the Municipal District, that needed to be addressed
- There were issues with cleaning of rivers.
- Could a meeting with Ms E O'Brien be arranged to discuss the flood relief scheme and other issues.

Mr K Kavanagh agreed to bring back the members concerns to Ms E O'Brien and ask her to attend an upcoming meeting.

The report was noted.

The Cathaoirleach thanked the members and the staff in Kildare County Council for their work in 2024 and wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

The meeting concluded.